

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /067 W  
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R 241910Z JAN 79  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7941  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
USMISSION USNATO  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
ZEN AMCONSUL BARCELONA POUCH  
ZEN AMCONSUL BILBAO POUCH  
ZEN AMCONSUL SEVILLE POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 MADRID 01118

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC; USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: RDS-4 01/23/99 (BREMENT, MARSHLL) OR-P  
TAGS: PINT, SP  
SUBJECT: CANDIDACY FILING DEADLINE PASSES

REF: MADRID 0823

1. (U) SUMMARY. THE PERIOD FOR REGISTRATION OF  
CANDIDATES WITH THE CENTRAL ELECTION BOARD EXPIRED  
AT MIDNIGHT, JANUARY 21. THE DEADLINE BROUGHT THE PRE-  
SENTATION OF SOME 9000 CANDIDATES WHO WILL BE VYING FOR  
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THE 558 PARLIAMENTARY SEATS (350 IN THE CONGRESS,  
208 IN THE SENATE). THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR FREE  
TELEVISION TIME AND PUBLICITY HAS BROUGHT OUT OF  
THE WOODWORK PARTIES AND GROUPINGS ALMOST UNHEARD  
OF SINCE THE JUNE 1977 ELECTIONS, MANY OF WHICH  
SIMPLY WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO AIR NAMES OF THOSE THEY WILL BACK IN THE

FOLLOW-ON (APRIL 3) MUNICIPALS OR TO HAVE AN ACCESSIBLE MEDIA PLATFORM FROM WHICH TO SEND A MESSAGE. THIS FLOOD OF CANDIDACIES HAS BROUGHT BACK REFERENCES TO THE CONFUSING "ALPHABET SOUP" OF SPANISH PARTIES, BUT THE PLETHORA OF CANDIDACIES IS UNLIKELY TO RESULT IN ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE PARLIAMENTARY LINEUP.

2. (LOU) THE LISTS OF ALL FOUR MAJOR NATIONAL GROUPINGS -- UCD, THE PSOE, THE PCE, AND THE CD COALITION, WHICH CONTAINS FRAGA'S AP AND IS ITS ELECTORAL SUCCESSOR -- HAVE UNDERGONE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN COMPARISON TO JUNE 1977, AND ALL OF THE MAJOR GROUPS EXCEPT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE SUFFERED DESERTIONS AS THE RESULT OF INTRAMURAL SQUABBLING OVER THE INCLUSION OR EXCLUSION OF PARTICULAR CANDIDATES, OR THEIR ORDER ON THE BALLOT. UCD AND THE PSOE HAVE EXPERIENCED MAJOR PROBLEMS IN GALICIA, WHERE BOTH HAVE ATTEMPTED TO STRENGTHEN MADRID'S CONTROL OF THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ONLY TO HAVE MORE REGIONALIST-ORIENTED MEMBERS WALK OUT. AS FOR CD, THE VOLATILE JOSE RAMON LASUEN THREW IN THE TOWEL AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR, LEAVING THE COALITION PERHAPS LESS "PROGRESSIVE", BUT PROBABLY ALSO MORE POLITICALLY COHERENT. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY THESE GROUPS IN PUTTING

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THEIR CANDIDACIES TOGETHER WILL HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT ELECTORAL IMPACT, BUT GALICIA, AT LEAST, WILL BEAR WATCHING. END SUMMARY.

3. (LOU) UCD. THE GOVERNING PARTY'S LISTS STRIKE US AS MUCH BETTER THOUGHT OUT AND MORE POLITICALLY EFFECTIVE THAN THEY WERE IN 1977, IN SPITE OF THE TENSIONS CANDIDACY SELECTION HAS CAUSED AND WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF GALICIA. ONLY 108 OF THE 165 UCD DEPUTIES ELECTED IN JUNE 1977 ARE INCLUDED IN THE NEW SLATES, AS THE PARTY LEADERSHIP HAS MOVED TO WEED OUT DEADWOOD AND DISCIPLINE CASES AND ENSURE A PARLIAMENTARY GROUP THAT WILL BE RELIABLE AND EFFECTIVE. SUAREZ HAS REMAINED AT THE HEAD OF THE MADRID LIST, BUT HE HAS SENT ALL BUT ONE OF HIS CIVILIAN MINISTERS OUT TO HEAD PROVINCIAL SLATES, RATHER THAN ALLOWING THEM TO POPULATE THE MADRID BALLOT, AS MANY PREFERRED. MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THE MINISTERS SHOULD PROVIDE GOOD DRAWING POWER FOR THE LISTS THEY HEAD (ALTHOUGH SOME WILL BE ACCUSED OF CARPETBAGGING) AND SUAREZ OBVIOUSLY HOPES THAT THIS WILL BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR

IN REDUCING ABSTENTIONISM AND ATTRACTING ANY SWING  
VOTE TO UCD. ALL THESE MINISTERS ARE CERTAIN TO  
EMERGE WITH A SEAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FONMIN  
OREJA, WHO CLEARLY HAS HIS WORK CUT OUT FOR HIM IN  
HIS HOME PROVINCE OF GUIPUZCOA. PARTICULARLY INTER-  
ESTING TOUCHES HAVE INCLUDED:

--- SUAREZ' STRENGTHENING OF THE MADRID LIST AND  
TILTING IT SOMEWHAT RIGHTWARD TO MEET THE CHALLENGE  
OF CD'S STRONG SLATE THROUGH THE INCLUSION OF

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R 241910Z JAN 79

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7942

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 MADRID 01118

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC; USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

RESPECTED CONSERVATIVES LIKE FORMER SENATORS FONTAN  
AND SATRUSTEGUI AND COLUMNIST LUIS APOSTUA.

--- THE GENERALIZED STRENGTHENING OF CONGRESS  
LISTS THROUGH THE INCLUSION OF MORE PROMINENT FORMER  
SENATORS (FONTAN IN MADRID, DE LA CIERVA IN

MURCIA, CARRASCAL IN ZAMORA).

--- AN EVEN YOUNGER CAST TO THE UCD SLATES THAN  
BEFORE, WITH AN AVERAGE AGE OF ABOUT 37 AND A VISIBLE  
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BOW TO THE PARTY'S YOUTH ORGANIZATION THROUGH THE  
INCLUSION IN THE MADRID LIST OF THREE UCD YOUTH  
LEADERS, INCLUDING "JUVENTUDES" PRESIDENT RAMON  
ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA AT NUMBER 12.

4. (LOU) PSOE. THE SOCIALISTS' APPROACH HAS BEEN  
FUNDAMENTALLY THE SAME AS IN JUNE 1977, WITH THE  
LEADERSHIP'S HAND VISIBLE IN ALMOST ALL OF THE  
PROVINCIAL LISTS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
FANNING OUT TO HEAD MANY SLATES. THE VAST  
MAJORITY OF THOSE POSITIONED HIGH ENOUGH TO BE  
ELECTED ARE REPEATERS FROM 1977. AS IN THE FIRST  
ELECTION, THE PSOE'S LISTS ARE YOUTHFUL, AND PARTY  
YOUTH LEADER JUAN ANTONIO BARRAGAN HAS EVEN BEEN  
INSERTED AS THE NUMBER TWO CANDIDATE ON THE  
SANTANDER BALLOT. INTERESTING DELETIONS FROM  
THE NEW LISTS HAVE INCLUDED FLAMBOYANT PSOE  
DEPUTY CARLOS ZAYAS, WHILE SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONS  
INCLUDE PARTY ECONOMIST MIGUEL BOYER AT THE HEAD  
OF THE JAEN LIST AND INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT  
MEMBER JOSE MIGUEL BUENO, AN OUTSPOKEN OPPONENT  
OF SPANISH NATO MEMBERSHIP, HEADING THE SALAMANCA  
SLATE. AS IN 1977, FELIPE GONZALEZ LEADS THE  
MADRID TICKET, FOLLOWED BY TIerno GALVAN, JAVIER  
SOLANA AND ENRIQUE BARON.

5. (LOU) PCE. PROBABLY THE MOST STRIKING FEATURE OF  
THE COMMUNISTS' SLATES ARE THE MANY NEW FACES AND  
THE NUMBER OF ABSENT OLD WAR HORSES. THE PCE ALSO  
APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN GREAT PAINS TO UPGRADE THE  
PRESENCE OF WORKERS COMMISSIONS FIGURES ON A NUMBER  
OF LISTS, INCLUDING THE INSERTION OF COMMISSIONS NOTABLE  
NICOLAS SARTORIUS AS THE NUMBER 5 CANDIDATE IN MADRID,  
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WHERE CARRILLO HEADS THE LIST.

6. (LOU) CD. PROBABLY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT FEATURE  
OF COALICION DEMOCRATICA'S LISTS IS THAT THEY  
REPRESENT A MARKED DEPARTURE FROM AP'S LISTS OF

1977. OF THE SEVEN FOUNDING LEADERS OF AP, ALL  
FORMER FRANCO MINISTERS, ONLY TWO REMAIN: FRAGA,  
LEADING THE MADRID LIST, AND CRUZ MARTINEZ ESTERUELAS,  
WHO WAS INSERTED, APPARENTLY AT THE LAST MINUTE,  
AT THE HEAD OF CD'S SLATE IN VALENCIA. CD ALSO  
PRODUCED A NUMBER OF SURPRISES, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH  
WAS THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY SOCIAL DEMOCRAT JOSE RAMON  
LASUEN THAT HE WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN CD AFTER  
ALL. AMONG THE REASONS ADDUCED FOR THIS LAST  
MINUTE BREAK WAS LASUEN'S DESIRE TO CONSTITUTE AN  
INDEPENDENT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARY GROUP  
AFTER ELECTIONS, A CONDITION WHICH AREILZA, FRAGA  
AND OSORIO COULD NOT ACCEPT. ALTHOUGH THE VAST  
MAJORITY OF CD'S LIST-HEADERS ARE RELATIVELY  
UNKNOWN IN MADRID (THEY MAY BE RESPECTED CONSERVATIVE  
FIGURES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE PROVINCES), CD DID MAKE  
HEADLINES WITH TWO OF ITS CHOICES: FORMER VICE  
PRESIDENT OF GOVT FERNANDO SUAREZ GONZALEZ (NO  
RELATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER) TO HEAD THE LIST  
FOR LEON, AND ARMY GENERAL MANUEL PRIETO LOPEZ,  
WHO HAD REQUESTED A LEAVE OF ABSENCE SPECIFICALLY  
TO RUN IN THE ELECTION, AT THE HEAD OF THE GRANADA  
BALLOT. PRIETO, WHO HAD BEEN RELIEVED OF HIS  
LEON CIVIL GUARD COMMAND IN DECEMBER 1977 FOR  
MAKING STATEMENTS CRITICAL OF THE GOVT, THEREFORE  
BECOMES THE ONLY FORMER GENERAL OFFICER TO ENTER  
THE LISTS, AND UCD SEC GEN RAFAEL ARIAS  
SALGADO ALREADY HAS EXPRESSED HIS PARTY'S CONCERN  
OVER CD'S GAMBIT BY WARNING THAT PRIETO CANNOT

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R 241910Z JAN 79  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7943  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 MADRID 01118

C O R R E C T E D COPY (LINE 18 ADDED PARA 7)

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC; USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

ARROGATE TO HIMSELF "REPRESENTATION OF THE ARMED  
FORCES." AREILZA, FRAGA AND OSORIO LEAD CD'S  
MADRID SLATE.

7. (C) THE GALICIAN FRONT. BOTH UCD AND THE PSOE  
RAN INTO TROUBLE IN GALICIA AS THE TWO PARTY LEADER-  
SHIPS ATTEMPTED TO TIGHTEN THEIR GRIP ON THE RES-  
PECTIVE REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH THE MECHANISM  
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OF CANDIDATE SELECTION. IN BOTH CASES PARTY SECTORS  
DESCRIBING THEMSELVES AS MORE GENUINELY REGIONALIST  
IN OUTLOOK CLAIMED THEY WERE SHORT CHANGED IN THE  
RESULTING LISTS, AND THAT MADRID'S HEAVY HAND WAS  
FRUSTRATING THE DEMOCRATIC WILL OF THE PARTY RANK  
AND FILE. IN UCD, TENSIONS CENTERED IN LUGO AND  
PONTEVEDRA. IN THE FORMER PROVINCE GALICIAN JUNTA  
PRESIDENT AND FORMER DEPUTY ANTONIO ROSON WAS  
KICKED UPSTAIRS TO THE SENATE WHILE PRESIDENCY  
MINISTER OTERO TOOK HIS PLACE AT THE HEAD OF THE  
CONGRESS LIST. IN THE LATTER, FORMER COMMERCE UNDER  
SECRETARY (FISHERIES) VICTOR MORO REMOVED HIMSELF  
FROM THE NUMBER ONE POSITION IN SYMPATHY WITH FORMER  
DEPUTY RIVAS FONTAN, WHO WAS EXCLUDED FROM THE LIST  
BY MADRID. A SIMILAR SITUATION DEVELOPED IN THE  
PSOE'S PONTEVEDRA ORGANIZATION, WHERE THE SECGEN  
OF THE PARTY'S REGIONAL FEDERATION, MODESTO  
SEARA, EXPRESSED HIMSELF IN SYMPATHY WITH A CANDIDATE  
EXCLUDED BY PSOE HEADQUARTERS, AND HE AND A NUMBER  
OF OTHERS WERE THEN SUMMARILY EXPELLED FROM THE  
PARTY. PRESIDENCY DIRGEN DIEZ BURGOS, JUST RETURNED  
FROM GALICIA, TOLD EMBOFF JAN. 23 THAT THE PURPOSE  
OF THE LUGO/PONTEVEDRA OPERATION HAD BEEN TO RID THE  
PARTY OF THE BOSSISM (CACIQUISMO) OF ROSON AND  
OTHERS. DIEZ BURGO SAID MORO, WHO IS EXTREMELY

IMPORTANT IN GALICIAN POLITICS, HAD AGREED TO  
SUPPORT UCD CANDIDATES IN SPITE OF HIS OWN WITH-  
DRAWAL, AND HE BELIEVED THE ELECTORAL COST  
OF THE "ADJUSTMENTS" WOULD BE MINIMAL. NEVERTHE-  
LESS, A NUMBER OF SEATS IN GALICIA ARE UP FOR GRABS,  
AND THE REGION WILL BEAR WATCHING AS THE CAMPAIGN  
UNFOLDS. MOREOVER, THIS "UNDEMOCRATIC" BEHAVIOR  
ON THE PART OF BOTH UCD AND THE PSOE HAS BEEN  
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ROUNDLY CRITICIZED IN THE PRESS, AND THIS  
PUBLICITY ACCORDED THE GALICIAN TENSIONS COULD  
GENERALIZE THEIR IMPACT. TODMAN

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## Message Attributes

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